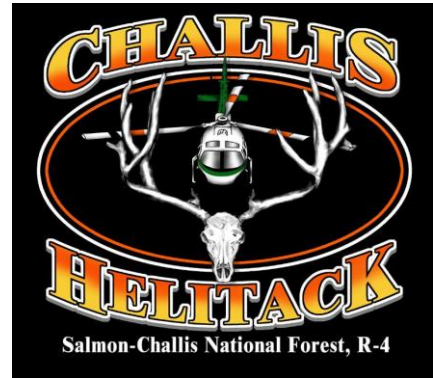


CHALLIS HELITACK  
Challis/Yankee Fork RD  
Salmon/Challis NF  
HC 63 PO 1669  
CHALLIS IDAHO 83226  
(208) 879-4177  
(208) 993-1759 CELL  
(208) 879-4176 FAX



## RECRUITMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

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### CHALLIS HELITACK MODULE

GS-0462 -05 Forestry Technician - Helitack

GS-0462-04 Forestry Technician Helitack

The Challis Helitack Module on the Salmon / Challis National Forest will be filling GS-0462-04 and GS-0462-05 seasonal Helitack Crewperson positions for the 2015 Field season

These positions are assigned to the Challis Helitack Module (Challis, Idaho) from May through October or later of each year. This notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this opportunity and how to apply.

### About the Positions

Title: Forestry Technician - Helitack Crewperson

Series/ Grade: GS-0462 4 and 5

Duty Location: Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District, Challis, Idaho.

Tour of Duty: Full Time Temporary /Seasonal

GOVERNMENT HOUSING IS AVAILABLE

## **Duties**

The position is located on a wildland fire helitack crew. The purpose of the position is wildland fire suppression/management/control as a specialized firefighter with responsibility for the operation and maintenance of specialized tools or equipment.

Other wildland fire related duties may involve fire prevention, patrol, detection, or prescribed burning. The incumbent may be assigned for varying periods of time into one or more types of positions within the wildfire program where the individual's specialized skills are required.

**Helitack Work:** Serves as a skilled member of a helitack crew. Regularly performs standard fire duties in the suppression of wildland fires. Loads helicopter cargo and completes manifest of crews and equipment. Builds fire line and lays or directs hose. Patrol areas of controlled fires to 'mop-up'. Cleans, reconditions, and stores fire tools and equipment. Independently or with one or two other crewmembers may be assigned to carry out specialized assignments such as tree falling, backfire and burnout, construction of helispots, specialized helitack operations, and hover hookups. Performs fuel management and prescribed burn activities.

**Additional Duties:** Performs as a member of a fire crew assigned to suppress the full range of difficulty and complexity of fires. Uses standard forestry practices and techniques, and accepted fire suppression and prescribed burning methods used in various types of fuels and under a variety of weather and terrain. Observes, records, and preserves evidence of cause of fires.

Participates in fire and safety training in the techniques, practices and methods of fire suppression and in the safe, efficient operation and use of tools, equipment and vehicles used in fire line activities, with emphasis on those used in the particular function to which assigned. Participate in crew proficiency checks and drills. Participate in safety sessions and fire critiques. Ensures own and others' welfare and safety in all aspects of the assignments.

Assigned as a fire lookout to provide detection and reporting. Reports smoke and fire to a dispatcher giving location, estimated size and other pertinent information. Reports weather and fire behavior information keeping the dispatcher and/or other officials informed of current conditions.

Perform project work such as road and trail maintenance, habitat manipulation, and miscellaneous equipment and facilities maintenance.

Assist higher level workers in forestry/range research efforts; in the marketing of forest/range resources; or in the scientific management, protection, and development of forest/range resources.

The duties of this position require sustained, arduous physical exertion under rigorous and unusual conditions. It also requires long hours working away from home for up to 28 days at a time.

This position(s) are classed as an arduous fire position under the Interagency Wildfire Qualifications Standards.

This is a qualified fire fighter position under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 8336(c) and 5 U.S.C. 8412(d).

This position participates in wildland firefighting activities. Based on the type of work performed, taking and passing the Work Capacity Test at the arduous level is a **"condition of employment"**. The arduous fitness (Pack) Test consists of a three (3) mile hike, within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack.

A high level of physical fitness is required before the start of the season. All though not a condition of hire, expectations are that the employee reporting for the first day of work is able to meet the minimum physical fitness standards (listed below). On average, these minimums are exceeded. Part of the test is to show that an individual can perform with the crew to ensure a cohesive, safe, and effective team.

- 45 sit-ups in 60 seconds
- 25 push-ups in 60 seconds
- 5 chin-up's or 5 pull-up's
- 1- 1/2 mile run in 11:45 or less
- 75-80 pound pack test over 3 miles of typical terrain in 90 minutes or less

### **To Apply**

**This vacancy will be filled through Region 4 Fire Hire. For more information go to:**

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fire/r4fire\\_hire](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fire/r4fire_hire)

**This vacancy announcement is posted and may be accessed through:**

[USAJobs.](#)

**Vacancy announcement numbers:**

**15-TEMP-R40462-4-HTK-DT-PM**

**15-TEMP-R40462-5-HTK-DT-PM**

**This in an Open Continuous vacancy announcement: All applicants will apply through  
USAJOBS**

- Please be sure to attach a Copy of your most current IQCS master record
- Select Challis, ID as the correct duty station for this position.

## **Contacts**

Any Questions please contact TiTi Cain, Challis Helitack Foreman @:

(208) 879-4177 Office: (208) 993-1759 Cell: e-mail: [pcain@fs.fed.us](mailto:pcain@fs.fed.us)

Or Bill Blount, South Zone FMO (208) 879-4123 Office: e-mail [blount@fs.fed.us](mailto:blount@fs.fed.us)

## **Additional information**

### **About the forest:**

The Salmon-Challis National Forest covers over 4.3 million acres in east-central Idaho. The Forest is bordered by the Bitterroot Range of the North Central Rockies on the east, and to the west includes over 1.3 million acres of the Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness. Rugged and remote, this country offers adventure, solitude and breathtaking scenery. The Forest also contains Mt. Borah, Idaho's tallest peak and the Wild & Scenic Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The area is a highly desired destination for hunting, fishing, white-water rafting and the many other popular recreational pursuits. The Forest features diverse, rough topography, geologic conditions, and miles of streams with anadromous fish spawning habitat creating a highly complex land management situation. The Forest Supervisors Office is located in Salmon, Idaho. There are currently six administrative units on the Forest: Salmon-Cobalt, Challis/ Yankee Fork, Lost River, Middle Fork, North Fork and Leadore Ranger Districts. For more information on the Forest or Districts, visit the website - [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/)

### **Challis, Idaho ([www.challisidaho.com](http://www.challisidaho.com))**

The City: Challis, Idaho is located a mile high in the mountains of central Idaho. The city has a population of approximately 1,000 and is the seat of Custer County which has a population of 4,300.

History: The Challis area was originally home to the Shoshone-Bannock people. In the 1820's, fur-trapping parties came in search for beaver pelts and other early settlers were traders, cattlemen and ranchers. In 1873 gold was discovered, unleashing a mining boom that spanned almost three decades. Although many of these mining camps eventually became ghost towns, Challis remained and continues to prosper from the rich mineral resources.

**Climate:** Challis enjoys a dry, warm climate during the summer and fall months with daily highs averaging between 75 to 95 degrees, and nightly lows from 45 to 60 degrees. The climate in winter is ideal for snow sports, the lowest temperatures averaging from 14 to 25 degrees with occasional sub-zero readings. Annual precipitation averages around 7 inches.

**Shopping and Services:** Challis has a variety of shops and services including: grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, pharmacies, florists, veterinarians, auto parts, ranch supplies, sporting goods stores, bars, hardware and lumber stores, video rentals, gas stations, and other businesses that specialize in antiques, jewelry, photo developing, clothing, furniture, artwork, appliances, and gifts. There is a full-service bank, a credit union, a Post Office, and a public library. For more information about the area, log on to the website - [www.challisidaho.com](http://www.challisidaho.com).

Media include the local weekly newspaper and two regional newspapers delivered daily. Cable TV is available in the city and many county residents use satellite receivers. Semi-local radio transmits from Salmon, Idaho, which includes Challis news. With an external antenna, several Southern Idaho FM radio stations can be received.

**Medical:** The Challis Area Health Center has x-ray and laboratory facilities, an emergency room, ambulance and Life-Flight helicopter capabilities. Additional medical services are provided by specialists who regularly visit the clinic. There is a physician assistant, a dentist, an optometrist, and two chiropractic doctors. The area has 24 hour 911 and EMT service. Several hospitals are located within 60 to 200 miles.

**Schools:** Present enrollment is about 500 students. Teacher/student ratios are 1:23 in the elementary school and 1:16 at the junior/senior high school. The school district is accredited and has a 2A rating for athletics. Extracurricular activities include interscholastic sports, music, and various interest activities such as an Academic Team, an Envirothon Team, and Frontier League sports. Each school has an up-to-date computer lab and there are computers in each classroom.

**Transportation:** There is a small airport with charter flights available. Three of the closest major airports are within 200 miles.

**Housing:** There are four motels in Challis and several bed and breakfast lodgings. Housing prices range from \$50,000 to over \$100,000. Several real estate offices are available. Mobile home parks provide additional accommodations. A fair selection of rental properties is usually available.

**Churches:** Challis has an active church community with several churches representing a variety of denominations.

**Entertainment and Activities:** The Challis Arts Council, a non-profit organization, sponsors professional high-quality artistic events for the community. The city park is an

excellent facility with tennis courts, picnic pavilion, playground equipment, amphitheatre, horseshoe pits and ball field. There is a nine-hole golf course and a bowling alley with league play available for all ages and also an additional game area. The Forest Service has an exercise room, and there is also a commercial body building business. The privately-owned Challis Hot Springs, approximately seven miles from Challis, offers year-round swimming in two pools with a natural flow from the hot springs.

Recreation for Salmon and Challis Areas: The Salmon River and the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, federally protected as Wild and Scenic Rivers, are renowned for white-water rafting, kayaking, floating and jet boating. Outfitter and guide services are offered and both Salmon and Challis serve as gateways to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, encompassing 2.4 million acres, the largest wilderness in the United States outside of Alaska. The primitive mountain area provides spectacular and abundant hunting (white-tailed and mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, bear, moose, and cougar). Many species of game birds and also waterfowl can be found. Fishing (trout and steelhead) is open virtually all year. Miles of groomed trails and routes are prepared for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling while down-hill skiing, ice fishing and other winter fun can be enjoyed nearby. Challis also is within 120 miles of the world-famed Sun Valley Ski Resort. Salmon and Challis offer hiking and wilderness walks, camping and picnicking, rock hounding, prospecting, bird watching, photography, hot springs, back-country air tours, guest ranches, mining ghost towns and museums, all adding to the immense opportunity for pleasure and adventure to be had by avid sportsmen and casual outdoor enthusiasts alike.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR HELITACK MODULE

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